

Summary of Minutes of the 9th Meeting of the Social Services Committee

Meeting

The Social Services Committee (“SSC”) held its ninth meeting on 14 May 2013.

Concerns Over the School Premises of Hong Chi Morning Hill School and Hong Chi Morning Light School, Tuen Mun

2. A number of Members expressed their understanding of the aspiration of parents of the Hong Chi Morning Hill School, Tuen Mun. They opined that the Education Bureau (“EDB”) had to assess the overall demand of the school development of the district so as to allocate school premises properly. Regarding measures to resolve the problem of overcrowding of the two schools, a Member suggested that new school premises should be constructed in relatively open areas of the district while another member proposed that temporary use of vacant school premises or vacant classrooms by the two schools should be allowed. A Member opined that local residents had to be consulted prior to the change of vacant premises of ordinary schools into premises of special schools.

3. After discussion, SSC requested the representative of EDB to brief Members on the addition works of school premises and the estimated time required for the relocation of the schools at the next meeting to facilitate SSC’s consideration of the two options.

Calling for Improvement/Optimisation of the Mortuary Services of Tuen Mun Hospital

4. While recognising Tuen Mun Hospital’s dedication to enhancing the hospice service and the end-of-life service, a number of Members opined that there was room for improvement in the hardware of the mortuary facilities located at the Main Block, and that the Hospital Authority (“HA”) should actively consider expanding such facilities as well as providing articles for religious rites, covers or shelters. In respond to Members’ comments, the representative of HA said that he understood why Members considered that the mortuary facilities of individual public hospitals were better than those of the Main Block of Tuen Mun Hospital. However, he hoped that Members could understand that since the Ground Floor of the Main Block of

Tuen Mun Hospital was mainly used for accident and emergency services, there were constraints on the development of hardware facilities and further expansion.

5. After discussion, SSC agreed to write to HA, asking for improvement of the mortuary facilities of Tuen Mun Hospital. It also endorsed that the issue would be followed up by the Working Group on Medical and Rehabilitation Services.

Calling for Proper Implementation of the Community Care Service for the Mental Rehabilitants

6. A number of Members expressed concerns over the nuisance caused by mental rehabilitants to their neighbours in public housing estates. They opined that HA should provide more long-term care places and increase the resources and manpower for the psychiatric services of Tuen Mun. Moreover, SSC opined that apart from proper in-patient service, community support was also very important to mental rehabilitants.

Calling for Breast Cancer Inspection Service

7. A number of Members requested the Authority to conduct breast cancer screening programme and provide free breast examination for women of the relevant age cohort at all Woman Health Centres.

Concerns for the Distribution of Primary One School Places

8. A number of Members remarked that although there were sufficient primary one school places this year, with the number of cross-boundary students increasing every year, and due to the substantial rise in the number of such students over recent years, the growth in primary one school places might not be able to meet the demand, forcing students of Tuen Mun to commute to schools outside their school nets/residential districts, and that Tuen Mun might head in the same direction of the North District. In this regard, they urged EDB to make timely plans for the future (for example, constructing new primary school premises, releasing vacant premises for the operation of new schools, etc.). They also urged the Bureau to consolidate the data concerned properly.

Invitation to Support City Impression@Your Neighbourhood

9. SSC endorsed to support the activities and thematic exhibition held under the City Impression@Your Neighbourhood. Planning Department would distribute the promotion materials to Members by mail or email in due course, so that Members could help publicise the event at district level.

Invitation to Support Smoke-free Community Campaign

10. SSC endorsed to act as the supporting partner of the Smoke-free Community Campaign at the invitation of the Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health. The issue would be followed up by the Working Group on Community Care.

Funding Scheme for Women's Development

11. SSC endorsed that the Funding Scheme for Women's Development would be followed up by the Working Group on Community Care, and that a number of district organisations would be invited to hold related activities jointly with the Working Group.

Proposal of ICAC Joint Project with Tuen Mun District Council 2013/2014

12. SSC noted ICAC's proposals on activities and the funding arrangement.

Secretariat, Tuen Mun District Council

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